instalments were not being allowed. Supply of salt was not equal to the demand made with the result that home-made salt was sold at over Rs. 6 and foreign salt at Rs. 7¼ per bag. The time had come, therefore, for Government to fix a maximum price for salt, as in the case of kerosine oil, paddy and rice. The Member also suggested that the system current in Malabar might well be introduced into Travancore, *i. e.*, of issuing permits to individual persons to import salt from Bombay after realising from them the duty due. That would, in due time, render it possible to abolish the *Kuduchandrams* now maintained by Government.

4. When goods were unloaded from the steamers in the roads and transported to the shore, much loss was being sustained by thefts in the boats and otherwise. It was, therefore, necessary that facilities similar to those at the Cochin port should be given.

5. In regard to the Marine Police, it was hard that traders should be asked to contribute towards its maintenance, especially when they were paying several tolls under different heads, every one of which was connected with the maintenance of trade facilities in the Alleppey port.

6. A State Bank or a Bank with substantial State aid should be established.

7. Chungam was a busy centre of trade in which there was a migration of floating population who sometimes lived for 8 or 10 days in their boats. A dispensary in such a locality for the use of both the resident and floating population was indispensable.

8. A foot-bridge should also be constructed at Chungam.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

29. Suggestions for the removal of certain obstacles to the development of trade and commerce.

Mr. P. I. Varkey (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) made the following suggestions :—

1. The canal near the Tirunakkara Market should be deepened and improved and the necessary improvements done to the landing ghats.

2. The canal which ended at the Market landing should be extended northwards and a landing ghat constructed close to the Market.

3. The roads leading to the two landing ghats, being steep and uneven, should be made easy for traffic.

4. A Trades Association or a Chamber of Commerce should be formed with Government nominees, to place before Government the requirements of the traders.

5. License system should be introduced for the sale of kerosine oil, especially in view of the recent severe hardships of the people.

6. In regard to the sale of salt, the chief complaint was that the lower subordinates of the *Kuduchandrams* raised false and unnecessary alarm about the quantity of salt available for sale to the public and thus realised from merchants coming from distant places enormous prices. Consequently, those merchants also sold salt at very high rates. The solution proposed was that a weekly statement of salt available for sale and in stock should be published at the *Kuduchandram* gate. Orders should also be given for the issue of salt to recognised purchasers in some definite ratio based on their requirements and the stock available.

7. The Government should help in starting one industry in Kottayam.

8. The Government should also make suitable arrangements for utilizing such raw materials as wax, sandalwood, resin, &c., and discourage their export.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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